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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 00355-86
22 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: George Kolt
National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: Suggested Discussion Item on Malta-Libyan Military
Relations for Your Meeting with SECDEF

- Libya seems to be successfully pressuring Malta to accept a Libyan military presence on the island.
- Libya is taking advantage of Malta's desire to expand its economic relationship with Libya (which offers it an export market, investments in Malta, oil and the absorption of otherwise unemployed Maltese into the Libyan economy) and to avoid alienating an irritable and unpredictable close neighbor.
- These considerations led to a Malta-Libyan Friendship and Assistance Treaty in 1984, which contained a secret protocol on military cooperation.
- Since then Libya has obtained Maltese assent to:
 - The presence of two Libyans at the Valletta Civil Air Control center to provide Tripoli information on air activity in the Mediterranean.
 - The probable dispatch to Malta of a team to survey possible sites for Libyan EW and GCI radars.
 - The presence of an aircraft with the probable similar mission of locating the best radar sites.
 - The dispatch last summer of a military training team with as many as 70 men to train a Maltese paramilitary group controlled by former Prime Minister Dom Mintoff.

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- Should Libya succeed in getting GCI radars onto Malta it would materially expand the effective operating range of Libyan fighters.

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- There is already enough evidence, however, to consider what, if anything, the US should do to deter or counter military deployments to Malta.


George Kolt

Attachment
Map

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Suggested Discussion Item on Malta-Libyan Military Relations for your Meeting with SECDEF

FROM:

George Kolt, NIO for EUROPE

EXTENSION

NO.

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